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CENTRAL FAX CENTER PATENT

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated in the following listing of all claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for implementing a scoreboard, comprising:  
associating an instruction with an index into the scoreboard, ~~the index identifying the instruction;~~  
associating the instruction with a scoreboard entry corresponding to the index;  
receiving an indication that a terminating event associated with the instruction has occurred, the received indication including a corresponding index into the scoreboard; and  
identifying and invalidating, based on the received corresponding index, the scoreboard entry corresponding thereto, wherein the received corresponding index uniquely identifies the scoreboard entry corresponding to the instruction.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein invalidating the scoreboard entry further comprises invalidating the scoreboard entry after the indication of a terminating event is received.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein:  
the instruction is a load instruction; and  
associating the instruction with a scoreboard entry corresponding to the index further comprises associating the load instruction with a scoreboard entry corresponding to the index.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein:  
receiving an indication that a terminating event associated with the instruction has occurred further comprises receiving an indication that load data associated with the load instruction has been received.

5. (Canceled)

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6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprises:  
forwarding the instruction and the index to a load/store processing unit.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprises:  
receiving the index from a load/store processing unit.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the scoreboard entry is one of a plurality  
of scoreboard entries.
9. - 20. (Canceled)
21. (Currently amended) A method comprising:  
locating an entry in a scoreboard for an instruction with a scoreboard index returned from  
a load-store unit; and  
invalidating the located scoreboard entry, based on the returned scoreboard index,  
wherein the returned scoreboard index uniquely identifies the scoreboard entry  
corresponding to the instruction.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 further comprising:  
installing the instruction in the scoreboard entry;  
associating the scoreboard index for the scoreboard entry with the instruction; and  
indicating the associated scoreboard index and the instruction to the load store unit.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 further comprising maintaining the  
index and the instruction in the load store unit at least until a terminating event that corresponds  
to the instruction.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the instruction includes a  
load instruction or a long latency instruction.
25. (Canceled)

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26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein a second instruction that is dependent upon the instruction is stalled until the scoreboard index is returned from the load-store unit.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:  
a scoreboard unit that includes a plurality of scoreboard entries configurable to be indexed with scoreboard indices, the scoreboard unit configurable to indicate in each entry validity information for an instruction; and  
an execution stage unit configurable to maintain scoreboard indices for respective instructions and to return scoreboard indices for use in locating and invalidating respective entries in the scoreboard unit, wherein the returned scoreboard indices uniquely identify a different one of the scoreboard entries which each correspond to a different instruction.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[29]] 28 further comprising a decode unit configurable to stall instructions dependent upon operands indicated in locked entries of the scoreboard unit.

31. (Canceled)

32. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the scoreboard entry corresponds to a register utilized by the instruction.

33. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the scoreboard entry corresponds to a register utilized by the instruction.

34. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein each of the entries of the scoreboard unit correspond to registers utilized by the respective instructions.

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35. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the invalidating of the scoreboard entry facilitates unstalling of at least one dependent instruction.

36. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the scoreboard entry is not required to be compared to an associated destination register of the instruction prior to invalidation.